The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes **SB469 PUBLIC HEALTH - SCHOOL BUILDINGS - MINIMUM HEALTH STANDARDS (HEALTHY SCHOOLS PROGRAM)**. This bill would establish the Healthy Schools Program in the State to promote a healthy environment in the public schools by adopting minimum standards designed to protect the health of the occupants of public school buildings. The bill would also require the Secretary of Health, in consultation with the Interagency Committee on School Construction, to adopt minimum health standards for public school buildings, and it would authorize a representative of the Secretary of Health to inspect a public school to make a certain determination.

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) already has a robust environmental program focused on indoor air quality and other regulatory compliance matters that would be covered under this proposed legislation. AACPS has a Comprehensive Maintenance Plan (CMP) which is designed to ensure continuation of a multi-year maintenance program so the delivery of education can be conducted in schools that are safe, healthy, and functionally efficient.

In addition, there are currently robust federal, State and local standards, regulations, guidelines, and recommended best practices in place which govern building health standards in the workplace and public schools. For example, the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1986 (AHERA) was enacted to protect students and school employees from asbestos exposure. This proposed legislation would create another unit of State government, the Healthy Schools Program, to develop regulations, minimum standards, and best practices as well as investigate complaints and provide directive styled corrections to various environmental matters at the local level. However, such a program is unnecessary given all of the current laws, regulations, and guidelines currently in place to promote a healthy environment in public schools.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on SB469.